

ARTICLES

TO BE

ENQUIRED OF

AND

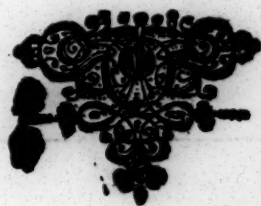
ANSWERED UNTO

BY

The Churchwardens and Sworn-
men in the Visitation of the Right

Worshipful the ARCH-DEACON of

ROCHESTER, *Anno Domini 1677.*



London, Printed in the year 1677.

The Tenor of the Oath of the Church-VVardens and Sworn-men.

YOU shall Swear, That you, and every of you, shall faithfully execute your several Offices of Church-wardens and Side-men, according to the Kings Laws, and to the best of your skill and knowledge. *So Help you God, and the Contents of his holy Gospel.*

I

*Articles to be inquired of, and answered unto
by the Church-wardens, Quest-men, or Side-
men in the Visitation of the Right Worship-
ful the Arch-Deacon of Rochester. Anno
Domini 167*

TIT. I.

*Concerning Churches, Chappels, with the Ornaments and Furniture
thereunto belonging.*

IS your Parish Church, or Chappel, in good and sufficient re- Can. 85.
pair, both for the Roof, Windows, Floor, and Seats?

2. Hath any part of your Church, Chappel, or Steeple
been demolished or pulled down? what part, and how long
since? or any of the Lead, Timber, or Bells thereunto formerly
belonging, any way imbezled or sold, and by whom?

3. Is there a decent Font of Stone, with a Cover? Doth the
Minister baptize publickly only in the Font? Is there a decent
Communion-Table in your Chancel, with a decent Carpet, and 82
another Covering of White Linnen, to be spread thereon at the
time of the Administration of the Lord's Supper? and have you
a fair Chalice or Communion-Cup, with a Cover, and one or more
Flagons? have they been profaned by common use?

4. Have you a convenient Seat or Pew wherein to read Di- 20
vine Service, a Pulpit with a decent Cloth or Cushion, a large 82
Bible of the last Translation, and a Book of Common-Prayer 83
lately published, Anno 1662. the Book of Homiles set forth by 80
Authority, and a Printed Table of the degrees wherein Marriages Stat.
are prohibited, and a Book of Canons and Constitutions Ecclesi- 99
astical, and a decent Surplice and Hood?

5. Have ye a Register-Book in Parchment of Christnings, Bu- 58
rials, and Marriages? and is the same kept in all points according 87
to the Ancient use? 70

A 2

6. Have

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6. Have you a Book of Paper, to record the Names and Licences of such Strangers as are admitted to Preach in your Church or Chappel? and do such Strangers subscribe their names? as also a Book for the Church-wardens Accounts? as also a Chest with Locks and Keys, wherein to keep the said Books, and the aforementioned Furniture?

TIT. II.

Concerning the Church-yard; the Houses, Glebes, and Tythes belonging to the Church.

1. **I**S your Church-yard sufficiently fenced, and decently kept? Hath any person encroached upon the same, or made any door in it? and how long since?

2. Is the House of your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, and the Out-houses in good repair? have any of them been defaced or pulled down without licence? have there been any encroachments made upon the same? or any of the ancient marks or bounds removed or changed? and by whom?

C. 87. 3. Have you a true and perfect Terrier of all the Glebelands, Gardens, Orchards, Tenements, or Cottages belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage? as also a Note of such Pensions, Rate-Tythes, and Portions of Tythes, or other yearly Profits (either within or without your Parish) as belong thereunto? Have any of the same been with-held from your Minister? and by whom, as you know or have heard?

TIT. III.

Concerning Ministers.

1. **I**S your Minister a Priest or Deacon, Episcopally ordained, according to the Laws of the Church of *England*? And hath he been Legally Instituted and Inducted, and did He within two months after his Induction, publicly in the Church upon some Sunday or Holy-day in the time of Divine Service, read the Thirty nine Articles of the Church of *England* established by Authority, and there publicly declare his assent thereunto?

2. Is he resident among you? how many Weeks hath he been absent from you without urgent necessity?

3. Hath

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3. Hath your Minister a Curate? Is he in Holy Orders, and conformable to the Laws of the Church? is he allowed by the Ordinary? *Can. 47.*

4. Doth your Parson, Vicar, Curate, or Lecturer, if you have any, perform his Office in all things according to the Rubrick of the Book of Common Prayer lately established, and the Act of Uniformity published therewith? without either diminishing in regard of Preaching, or in any other respect, or adding any thing in the matter of Form? *48*

5. Doth your Minister at the Reading Divine Service, or administering the Sacraments, wear a Surplice and Hood? *58*

6. Doth he observe the Holidays and Fasting-days, the Ember-week, and the yearly Perambulation of Rogation-week, as is appointed by the Rubrick?

7. Is your Minister licensed to Preach? if so, doth he constantly (not having a reasonable impediment) Preach one Sermon in your Church or Chappel every Sunday? or if he be not licensed, or be hindered, doth he procure one to supply his Office by Preaching or Reading one of the Homilies? *45, 46, 47.*

8. Doth your Minister instruct the youth in your Parish in the Church-Catechism, and prepare and present them to be confirmed by the Bishop? *Can. 59. Rubr. before Confirm.*

9. Doth he neglect or delay to Visit the Sick, or to Baptize any Infant that is in danger of death? Doth he baptize any without Godfathers and Godmothers, or admit either of the Parents to be Godfather or Godmother to their own Children? *67 69*

10. Hath your Minister married any persons without publishing the Banes on three Sundays or Holy-days? unless he had a Licence or Dispensation so to do: or hath he married any in private houses, or not between the hours of Eight and Twelve in the morning? *62*

11. Doth your Minister or any other, either Minister or Layperson, hold any Conventicles or Meetings in private houses within your Parish, for people of several Families to resort unto, under the pretence of Preaching, Praying, Thanksgiving, or Humiliation, contrary to the Laws and Canons in that case provided? *72 73*

12. Is your Parson, Vicar, Curate, or Lecturer, a man of a sober life and conversation? or is his carriage in any kind disorderly or scandalous, and unbecoming a Minister? *75*

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TIT. IV. Concerning the Parishioners.

Act for Uniformity 1 Q. Eliz. C. 109. 1. **I**S there any in your Parish that make profession of any other Religion, than what is established in the Church of England? And that refuse to come to the Publick Assemblies, Prayers, or Service of the Church? If there be any, what are their names?

2. Is there any person in your Parish, that lieth under a common fame, or suspicion of Adultery, Fornication, or Incest? Are there any common Drunkards within your Parish, or common Swearers, or Blasphemers of Gods Name, or any that are noted to be Railers, unclean or filthy Talkers; or sowers of Sedition, Faction, and Discord amongst their neighbours?

Can. 13. 18 Rubr. 3. Doth every person in your Parish duly resort to your Church or Chappel upon Sundays and Holy-days, and as well during Divine Service, as Preaching the Word of God, demean themselves reverently, uncovering their Heads, kneeling at Prayers, standing up when the Creed and Gospel are read?

Rubr. of Bapt. 4. Is there any in your Parish that refuse to send their Infant-children to be Baptized in the Church, unless in case of urgent danger? or do they send them to be Baptized in other Parishes? or are they baptized after other form than as appointed? or are there any Infants, or more aged persons as yet unbaptized?

112 Rubr. after Communion. 27, 28. 5. Is there any person in your Parish of 16 years of age, who doth not receive the Sacrament three times in the year, of which Easter is always to be one? Doth any refuse to receive it kneeling?

63 6. Are there any in your Parish that be denounced and declared Excommunicate for any crime committed? How long have they been so excommunicated? and do any of your Parish keep society with them before they be reconciled to the Church, and absolved?

Expressin a Table set forth by 107 Authority, Anno Dom. 1563. 7. Are there any living in your Parish, who have been unlawfully Married, contrary to the Laws of God? or any that being lawfully Married, and not Separated or Divorced by course of Law, do not cohabit together?

8. Are there any Married Women in your Parish, who after their Delivery from the peril of Child-birth, refuse

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refuse to make their Publick Thanksgiving to God in the Church? And when they come so to do, do they come decently apparelled, and make their Offerings according to Custom?

9. Are there any that refuse to pay their duty for *Easter Offerings*, or refuse to contribute to the Rates made for the repair of *Can. 85.* your Church or Chappel, or any thing thereunto belonging?

10. Do any refuse to bury their Dead according to the Rites *Rubr. b.* of the Church of *England*? and are there any Wills or Testaments of persons dead in your Parish, that be yet unproved for or any Goods administred without a due grant from the Ordinary? did any dying in your Parish, or else-where, leave any Legacy to your Church or Chappel, or to the use of the Poor, or to any other Pious and Charitable purposes? What were those Legacies, and how have they been bestowed?

11. Is there any Strife and Contention among any of your Parish for their Pews or Seats in your Church? Have any new Pews been erected in your Chancel, or in the body of your Church or Chappel, without leave from the Ordinary?

TIT. V.

Concerning Parish-Clerks and Sextons.

1. **H**AVE you belonging to your Church or Chappel a Parish-*Can. 92.* Clerk, aged 21 years at the least? Is he of honest life and conversation? and sufficient or able to perform his duty in reading, writing, and singing? Is he chosen by your Minister, and doth he duly attend him in all Divine Services at the Church? are his wages duly paid unto him? or who withholdeth the same from him?

2. Doth he diligently do his duty in keeping the Church clean and decent, in tolling and ringing the Bells before Divine Service; and when any person is passing out of this life, doth he upon notice, toll a Bell, that the neighbours may thereby be warned to recommend the dying person to the grace and favour of God?

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TIT. VI.

Concerning School-Masters, Schools, Physicians, Chirurgions
and Midwives.

Can. 77.

79.

DOth any man keep a publick or private School in your Parish, who is not allowed thereunto by his Ordinary: doth he teach his Scholars the Catechism of Religion set forth by Authority: doth he cause his Scholars upon Sundays and Holy-days orderly to repair to your Church or Chappel, and see that they behave themselves quietly and reverently during the time of Divine Service and Sermon?

2. Doth any in your Parish practise Physick or Chirurgery: or any Woman take upon her to exercise the Office of a Midwife without Licence from the Ordinary?

TIT. VII.

Concerning Church-Wardens and Side-men.

Can. 89. 1.

ARe the Church-wardens of your Parish yearly and duly chosen by the joynt consent of your Minister and Parishioners: or one of them by your Minister, and the other by the Parishioners?

2. Have the former and last Church-wardens given up their Accounts to the Parish, and delivered up to the succeeding Church-wardens the Moneys remaining in their hands, together with all other things belonging to your Church or Chappel?

3. You are further to understand, That according to your Office, you are to provide against every Communion appointed in your Church or Chappel, a sufficient quantity of fine white Bread, and of good Wine, according to the number of Communicants.

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Commun.

YOU are also to exhibit a Bill of Presentments to this Court, of the Offenders in your Parish, and therein to take the assistance of your Minister.

F I N I S.